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MEMORANDUM

June 6, 2014

TO: School Board Members

FROM: E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent 

**SUBJECT: RESULTS OF FY2014 FCAT 2.0 READING, MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE:
ALL STUDENTS TESTED**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has released the FY2014 results for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT 2.0) for all students tested in Reading, Mathematics, and Science.¹ In April of 2014, approximately 106,500 School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) students took the FCAT 2.0 test in Reading in grades 3-10, approximately 77,000 in Mathematics in grades 3-8, and approximately 26,000 students in Science in grades 5 and 8.

A preliminary analysis of the data revealed the following:

- In FY2014, the SDPBC had a significantly higher proficiency rate than Florida
 - At grades 4 through 8 in Mathematics,
 - At grades 5 and 8 in Science, and
 - At grade 9 in Reading.
- In FY2014, when compared with the largest districts in Florida², the SDPBC had the highest performance
 - At grades 5, 6, 9, and 10 in Reading,
 - At grades 5, 6, and 7 in Mathematics, and
 - At grades 5 and 8 in Science.³

In previous years, grade 8 students enrolled in Algebra 1 took the both the Algebra 1 EOC and the Grade 8 FCAT 2.0 Mathematics tests. In FY2014, students enrolled in Algebra 1 were no longer required to take the Grade 8 FCAT 2.0 Mathematics test, which resulted in a decline in the grade 8 mathematics proficiency rates.

Tables 1 through 5 report the percent of students proficient in Reading, Mathematics, and Science for the SDPBC, Florida, and the largest districts. Results for individual SDPBC schools are available on the Department of Research, Evaluation and Assessment website at: <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/dre/NRE/Results.asp>

¹ This data is based on all students tested, and not on the group of students used in the calculation of school grades. The FDOE previously released the results for grade 3 reading and mathematics, and those results are included in this analysis.

² Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students

³ Some other districts also had the highest score in reading in grades 5 and 6, and in Science in grade 5.

These results will be shared with appropriate staff to provide direction for improvement in curriculum and instruction. In addition, schools have received reports regarding their FCAT 2.0 test takers and will use this information in the school improvement planning process.

Should you have questions about the FCAT 2.0 results, please contact Mark Howard, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment, at 434-8781. If you have questions about instruction and the FCAT 2.0, please contact Keith Oswald, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, at 357-1113. If you have questions about individual school efforts and the FCAT 2.0, please contact the appropriate area superintendent or school principal.

EWG/CA/MB/MH:bs

Attachments

- c: Academic and Operating Chiefs
- Area/Assistant Superintendents
- Academic Directors
- Principals

Table 1: FCAT 2.0 Reading: Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above

Year	Grade 3		Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 10	
	PB ⁴	FL ⁵	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2011	55	57	57	59	58	58	60	58	59	58	56	53	53	51	55	52
FY2012	54	56	61	62	61	61	56	57	58	58	59	55	53	52	54	50
FY2013	54	57	61	60	61	60	59	59	59	57	59	56	55	53	58	54
FY2014	55	57	61	61	62	61	61	60	56	57	58	57	55	53	56	55

Table 2: FCAT 2.0 Mathematics: Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above

Year	Grade 3		Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2011	53	56	61	58	56	56	59	53	63	56	67	56
FY2012	56	58	62	60	57	57	56	53	61	56	67	57
FY2013	59	58	64	61	57	55	54	52	60	55	61	51
FY2014	57	58	66	63	59	56	57	53	58	56	50*	47*

Note. The FDOE does not administer an FCAT Mathematics test at grades 9 and 10.

* In FY2014, Grade 8 FCAT 2.0 Mathematics scores decreased due to the fact that students enrolled in Algebra 1 were no longer required to take the grade 8 mathematics test.

Table 3: FCAT 2.0 Science: Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above

Year	Grade 5		Grade 8	
	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2013	60	53	49	47
FY2014	57	54	51	49

Table 4. FY2014 FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics Results by Grade Level for the Five Largest Florida Districts: Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above

	Grade 3		Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8		Grade 9	Grade 10
	RD	MA	RD	MA	RD	MA	RD	MA	RD	MA	RD	MA	RD	RD
Palm Beach	55	57	61	66	62	59	61	57	56	58	58	50	55	56
Broward	57	56	61	64	60	56	61	56	58	55	59	43	52	53
Hillsborough	59	56	61	59	61	55	57	52	52	57	53	53	49	55
Miami-Dade	56	62	63	66	61	58	61	53	57	52	57	33	50	52
Orange	56	58	61	67	62	58	61	54	57	56	57	54	52	54

RD = Reading; MA = Mathematics
 Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students

⁴ PB = SDPBC
⁵ FL = State of Florida

Table 5. FY2014 FCAT 2.0 Science Results for Grades 5 and 8 for the Five Largest Florida Districts: Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above

	Grade 5	Grade 8
Palm Beach	57	51
Broward	49	47
Hillsborough	56	46
Miami-Dade	51	44
Orange	57	49

Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students